

# Ed Gotch

**#278449 | March 17, 2021**

Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

Dear City Council, I am writing to you as a property owner and tax payer of Multnomah County. I have become aware of and like many of my friends in Multnomah County I am opposed to the proposal to allow camping in Open Spaces as proposed in the S2HC Project. The homelessness issue in our community is without question a significant one that must be addressed and does not have a perfect solution. Allowing homeless people who are down on their luck and may have mental health and or drug addiction problems to camp in this space strikes me as inhumane to them and the community at large. These unfortunate members of our community need full service help as opposed to allowing them to camp, which I view as simple warehousing them and kicking the can down the road. The solution needs to include services to help restore their physical and mental health and help them address any drug addiction issues. Simply providing a space is not enough and having this in parks and other open spaces where our community including children gather is unsafe in many ways. I applaud your desire to address the problem, but let's find alternative spaces where these people who need our help can be properly housed with adequate personal care and hygiene facilities along with support services. I am sure there are many places this can be done with some creative thinking and compromises by all involved. Please do not add to the problem by agreeing to the 180 day camping in open spaces as proposed. Thank you.

Testimony is presented without formatting.